

Office of the
Legislative Fiscal Analyst

FY 2005 Budget Recommendations

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for
Natural Resources

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Resource Conservation

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1.0 Summary: Resource Conservation

The Resource Conservation line item encompasses three programs: Resource Conservation Administration, Soil Conservation Commission, and Soil Conservation Districts (SCD). Most of the funds in the line item go to the 38 individual SCDs or their state association, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD).

There is more demand on the state's private lands and water resources than ever. The purpose of the programs in this line item is to curb the loss of soil and water to natural erosion, man-caused pollution, and poor land use planning. There are many programs that have been developed to solve these problems. Most are voluntary and incentive-based, and most are delivered through the SCDs.

	Analyst FY 2005 Base	Analyst FY 2005 Changes	Analyst FY 2005 Total
Financing			
General Fund	944,200	(700)	943,500
Agri Resource Development	333,300		333,300
Closing Nonlapsing	(3,700)		(3,700)
Total	\$1,273,800	(\$700)	\$1,273,100
Programs			
Resource Conservation Admin	121,000	(700)	120,300
Soil Conservation Commission	8,800		8,800
Resource Conservation	1,144,000		1,144,000
Total	\$1,273,800	(\$700)	\$1,273,100
FTE/Other			
Total FTE	2.0	0.0	2.0

3.0 Programs: Resource Conservation

3.1 Resource Conservation Administration

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends a total budget of **\$120,300**. Funding from the Agriculture Resource Development Fund is used to cover costs of technical support to the Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) program.

	2003 Actual	2004 Estimated*	2005 Analyst	Est/Analyst Difference
Financing				
General Fund	118,600	119,000	118,300	(700)
General Fund, One-time		300		(300)
Agri Resource Development	5,700	5,700	5,700	
Beginning Nonlapsing	224,600	4,000		(4,000)
Closing Nonlapsing	(4,000)		(3,700)	(3,700)
Lapsing Balance	(300)			
Total	\$344,600	\$129,000	\$120,300	(\$8,700)
Expenditures				
Personal Services	100,400	103,200	102,600	(600)
In-State Travel	3,800	4,000	4,000	
Out of State Travel	1,800	2,300	2,300	
Current Expense	5,200	13,600	6,200	(7,400)
DP Current Expense	8,400	5,900	5,200	(700)
Other Charges/Pass Thru	225,000			
Total	\$344,600	\$129,000	\$120,300	(\$8,700)
FTE/Other				
Total FTE	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose

This program complies with the Department's mandate (UCA 4-2-2(1)(o)) to "assist the Soil Conservation Commission in the administration of [the Soil Conservation Commission Act] and administer and disburse any funds which are available for the purpose of assisting soil conservation districts." In other words, this program provides technical and accounting support to the Soil Conservation Commission.

Intent Language

In all even-numbered years elections are held in each of the 38 conservation districts. Funds are provided each year, but are held during non-election years in a nonlapsing account. The Analyst recommends **continuing** the following intent language from H.B. 1, 2003 General Session:

It is the intent of the Legislature that funding approved for Soil Conservation District elections be nonlapsing and be spent only during even-numbered years when elections take place.

**Previous Budget
Action Report**

In the 2003 General Session the Legislature transferred \$1,400 in ongoing General Funds from this line item to the Building Operations line item. The transfer was made for FY 2003 forward.

3.2 Soil Conservation Commission

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends a budget of **\$8,800** funded entirely from the General Fund. The funding will pay for seven Soil Conservation District supervisors to attend six meetings of the Soil Conservation Commission. There are no FTEs in the program.

	2003	2004	2005	Est/Analyst
Financing	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst	Difference
General Fund	8,800	8,800	8,800	
Total	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$0
Expenditures				
Personal Services	2,400	2,500	2,500	
In-State Travel	6,200	6,100	6,100	
Current Expense	200	200	200	
Total	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide funding for the per diems of seven Soil Conservation District supervisors who sit on the Soil Conservation Commission (UCA 4-18-4). Each Soil Conservation District has five locally elected, individuals serving as supervisors, from whom the members of the Soil Conservation Commission are chosen.

3.3 Resource Conservation (Soil Conservation Districts)

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends a total budget of **\$1,144,000**, funded from the General Fund and the Agriculture Resource Development Fund. There are no FTEs in this program. District Supervisors are reimbursed for their expenses and receive some payment for their time when doing conservation work.

	2003	2004	2005	Est/Analyst
Financing	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst	Difference
General Fund	912,900	816,400	816,400	
Dedicated Credits Revenue	300			
Agri Resource Development	229,700	327,600	327,600	
Beginning Nonlapsing	400	400		(400)
Closing Nonlapsing	(400)			
Lapsing Balance	(100)			
Total	\$1,142,800	\$1,144,400	\$1,144,000	(\$400)
Expenditures				
Personal Services	53,300	49,400	49,400	
In-State Travel	33,500	33,700	33,700	
Out of State Travel	5,600	8,500	8,500	
Current Expense	7,300	6,700	6,300	(400)
Other Charges/Pass Thru	1,043,100	1,046,100	1,046,100	
Total	\$1,142,800	\$1,144,400	\$1,144,000	(\$400)

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to channel funds (pass-through) by direct payment of contracts to individual Soil Conservation Districts and/or UACD to fulfill SCD statutory duties relative to soil and water conservation (see UCA 17A-3-805). SCDs have no taxing authority. They depend on the Soil Conservation Commission for their board of directors, elections, and accountability.

Previous Budget Action Report

During the 2003 General Session the Legislature reduced ongoing General Funds to this program by \$97,900 as part of the requirement to reduce budgets by an additional two percent. To offset the reduction, the legislature increased the appropriation from the ARDL account by \$97,900.

Intent Language

The Analyst recommends **maintaining** the following intent language from H.B. 1, 2003 General Session:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Soil Conservation Districts submit annual reports documenting supervisory expenses to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and the Soil Conservation Commission. It is also the intent of the Legislature that these documents be reviewed and reported to the Governor and the 2004 Legislature.

In November of 2003 the Utah Association of Conservation Districts submitted a written report on supervisory expenses. Totaled for the state, the report shows wages of \$53,200, travel costs of \$39,800, and other expenses of \$6,800, for total costs of \$99,900 (compared to \$99,700 in FY02). The Analyst can provide copies if desired.

It is the intent of the Legislature that collections from soil conservation license plates be nonlapsing.

UCA 41-1a-418 allows the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue special "soil conservation license plates," the proceeds of which benefit this program. Collections to date have not been significant.

4.0 Additional Information: Resource Conservation

4.1 Funding History

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Financing	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst
General Fund	1,129,000	1,169,800	1,040,300	944,200	943,500
General Fund, One-time		345,500		300	
Dedicated Credits Revenue	600	400	300		
Agri Resource Development	235,100	235,100	235,400	333,300	333,300
Transfers		1,100			
Beginning Nonlapsing	2,500	8,400	225,000	4,400	
Closing Nonlapsing	(8,400)	(225,000)	(4,400)		(3,700)
Lapsing Balance	(100)	(400)	(400)		
Total	\$1,358,700	\$1,534,900	\$1,496,200	\$1,282,200	\$1,273,100
Programs					
Resource Conservation Admin	117,900	285,100	344,600	129,000	120,300
Soil Conservation Commission	9,600	9,200	8,800	8,800	8,800
Resource Conservation	1,231,200	1,240,600	1,142,800	1,144,400	1,144,000
Total	\$1,358,700	\$1,534,900	\$1,496,200	\$1,282,200	\$1,273,100
Expenditures					
Personal Services	163,600	161,100	156,100	155,100	154,500
In-State Travel	56,200	37,700	43,500	43,800	43,800
Out of State Travel	8,100	8,200	7,400	10,800	10,800
Current Expense	16,500	25,600	12,700	20,500	12,700
DP Current Expense	6,800	5,800	8,400	5,900	5,200
Other Charges/Pass Thru	1,107,500	1,296,500	1,268,100	1,046,100	1,046,100
Total	\$1,358,700	\$1,534,900	\$1,496,200	\$1,282,200	\$1,273,100
FTE/Other					
Total FTE	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency.

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